

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CARACA 14347 091756Z

41

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

----- 062116

O 091630Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5936

S E C R E T CARACAS 14347

NODIS

FOR ARA ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHLAUDEMAN FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, VE

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH IRIBARREN

REF: STATE 299311

1. IN ITS FRONT PAGE FEATURE STORY, EL NACIONAL OF DECEMBER 8 CARRIED A WASHINGTON DATELINED UPI STORY OF REF MEETING UNDER THE HEADLINE: "FORD ASKS VENEZUELA TO CONSIDER EFFECTS OF ANOTHER OIL PRICE INCREASE". THE STORY STATES THAT PRESIDENT FORD MADE THIS APPEAL IN A PRIVATE MEETING WITH IRIBARREN. THE STORY SAYS THE 45-MINUTE MEETING TOOK PLACE THE DAY AFTER IRIBARREN'S PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS. IRIBARREN CONFIRMED TO UPI THE FACT OF THE MEETING BUT ACCORDING TO THE STORY DID NOT INDICATE ITS SUBSTANCE. THE SUBSTANCE, HOWEVER, WAS CONFIRMED, THE STORY GOES ON, BY "OTHER VENEZUELAN DIPLOMATIC SOURCES".

2. THIS MORNING'S EL NACIONAL, IN THE SAME FRONT PAGE FEATURE SPOT, REPORTS THE GOV REACTION AND QUOTES MINISTER OF MINES HERNANDEZ EXTENSIVELY. THE SENSE OF THE STORY IS THAT ALTHOUGH VENEZUELA UNDERSTANDS WASHINGTON'S CONCERN, VENEZUELA'S POSITION AND OPEC'S THAT A PRICE INCREASE IS NECESSARY REMAINS FIRM AND "IRREVERSIBLE". THE MINISTER, QUOTED AS SAYING HE KNEW ABOUT PRESIDENT'S FORD'S REPRESENTATIONS, WENT
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 CARACA 14347 091756Z

ON TO SAY THAT VENEZUELA REALIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF

THE ISSUE BUT ADDED THAT OPEC COUNTRIES HAD TO PROTECT THEIR PURCHASING POWER. FOR THAT REASON HERNANDEZ IS QUOTED AS SAYING VENEZUELA WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO FIND GLOBAL SOLUTIONS IN THE NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE IN PARIS. "THERE EXIST SUFFICIENTLY POWERFUL ELEMENTS IN THE WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION", HERNANDEZ SAID, TO OBLIGE US TO ADJUST OPEC'S PRICES. THERE IS TOTAL CONSENSUS TO THIS EFFECT IN OPEC."

3. ESCOVAR DID NOT REFER TO THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING. NEITHER DID I.

4. PLEASE NOTE THAT AT LEAST HERE THE FACT OF THE MEETING AND ITS BASIC CONTENT AS DESCRIBED IN REFTEL ARE IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN. WE HAVE NOT BEEN ASKED FOR CONFIRMATION, I ASSUME BECAUSE NO ONE HERE FEELS ANY NEED NOW TO HAVE THE FACT CONFIRMED. IN VIEW OF ALL THIS, I AM A LITTLE PUZZLED AT THE SECRECY WITH WHICH REFTEL SHROUDS THE FACT OF THE MEETING. DO YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER GUIDANCE IN THIS REGARD?
VAKY

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PETROLEUM, ECONOMIC RECOVERY, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, MEETINGS, CAT-A, PRICES, INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CARACA14347
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P840086-2311
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761255/aaaabvse.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 76 STATE 299311
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <16 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH IRIBARREN
TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, US, VE, OPEC, EL NACIONAL, (FORD, GERALD R), (IRIBARREN BORGES, IGNACIO), (ESCOVAR SALOM, RAMON)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006